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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Afghanistan, Cambodia, Nicaragua, South Africa and Sri Lanka: draft resolution

Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 and its decision 47/419 of 9 December 1992 on international arms transfers,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/75 F and H of 16 December 1993, 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 on measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms,

Recognizing that the availability of massive quantities of conventional weapons and especially their illicit transfer, often associated with destabilizing activities, are most disturbing and dangerous phenomena, in particular for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Bearing in mind that in certain situations mercenaries, terrorists and child soldiers are supplied with weapons acquired from illicit transfers of conventional arms,

Convinced that peace and security are inextricably interlinked with and in some cases imperative for economic development and reconstruction, including in war-stricken countries,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve conflicts and to diminish tension, and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security,

Recognizing the curbing of the illicit transfer of arms as an important contribution to the relaxation of tension and peaceful reconciliation processes,

Stressing the need for effective national control measures on the transfer of conventional weapons,

Convinced that effective measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms will help enhance regional and international peace, security and economic development,

1. Welcomes the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the report on international arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H, as well as a text entitled "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991"; 1/

2. Invites Member States:

(a) To enact adequate national legislation and/or regulations and adopt administrative procedures to exercise effective control over armaments and the export and import of arms, inter alia, to prevent trafficking in illicit arms and to bring offenders to justice;

(b) To provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with relevant information on national control measures on arms transfers with a view to preventing illicit arms transfers;

3. Also invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with their views on:

(a) Effective ways and means of collecting weapons transferred illicitly, in particular in the light of experience gained by the United Nations;

(b) Concrete proposals concerning measures at national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to:

(a) Submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report containing the views expressed by Member States;

(b) Report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the effective implementation of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms".

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), para. 29 and annex I.